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The circulation of the Times for the week

ending October 23, 1901, was as follows:

Sunday, October 23..... 20,372

Monday, October 24..... 20,372

Tuesday, October 25..... 20,372

Wednesday, October 26..... 20,372

Thursday, October 27..... 20,372

Friday, October 28..... 20,372

Saturday, October 29..... 20,372

Total..... 142,616

Daily average (Sunday, 20,372, excepted)..... 20,372

The Tariff and Foreign Trade.

While Senator Fairbanks and other

Republican orators are expatiating

upon the growth of our foreign trade

during the last four years, they ought

not to omit an explanation of how the

policy of their party has contributed

to increase either the exports or the im-

ports.

Surely, it will not be claimed that

raising duties to such a point that

foreign goods cannot be sold in competition

with our own in the American market

will increase imports. No extreme

champion of the tariff should desire to

make such a claim, for the whole

theory of the high protection doctrine is

that the importation of something which

we can ourselves produce is an un-

mitigated evil. The home market for

American producers has been the motto

of the protectionists always.

It cannot be said with any sort of

reason that the policy of keeping for-

eign goods out of the American market

has any tendency to induce other coun-

tries to buy more of our products. The

effect must be and is directly the other

way. If other nations cannot sell their

goods here, and even if they could buy

from us in such circumstances, it is

not in human nature for them to in-

crease their purchases here as a result

of a policy on our part which causes

them to feel unfriendly toward us.

It is as plain as light that the effect

of high tariffs is to restrict trade. In

former years no champion of that sys-

tem ever defended it upon the ground

that it would increase our foreign trade.

Its purpose was said to be the develop-

ment of our home industries. All of

this may be well enough in its way

within reasonable limits, but it would

be absurd to claim that it increased

our foreign trade. The simple truth is

that our commerce has expanded, in

spite of tariff restrictions—not by their

aid.

Illiteracy in Virginia.

The census reports show that there is

more illiteracy among the white males

of voting age in Virginia than in any

other State, the percentage being seven

and a half. This will surprise many,

and it may tend to explain the

anxiety displayed by the Constitutional

Convention of that State not to dis-

franchise the illiterate white voters.

But aside from all such considerations,

it is a rather unpleasant exhibit to con-

template, and especially in view of the

fact that these illiterates are nearly all

slaves of the United States, and of the

fact that they reside in the great

East, in which Virginia was the great

center of battlefields, retarded educa-

tional progress in the State, as it did

material development; but that conflict

ended long ago, and it is hard to resist

the conclusion that the Old Dominion has

not shown as much interest in educa-

tional matters as it should.

In a Republic general education of a

broad and comprehensive character is

of prime importance. The teachings

of the schools do not always make an

intelligent voter, but they lay a good

foundation upon which he may build.

Without the rudiments of an education

it is hard for any man to obtain a clear

understanding of public affairs. Neces-

sarily he is dependent for his knowl-

edge upon such information as may be

imparted to him by the press, and he

receives it colored by partisan

bias. He is not able to sift the true

from the false, nor can he generally

draw logical deductions from the

knowledge which he thus acquires.

The leaders of thought in Virginia

appear to be impressed that illiteracy

in the electorate is a serious evil, and

are seeking for a remedy. There is

nothing wrong in this, and it is a

noble purpose of at once making the

electorate a more intelligent one and

of inspiring the ignorant to improve

themselves mentally. But beyond this

there should be a concerted effort for

the increase of school facilities, for

without them it is very hard for poor

people to educate their children. Per-

haps a little coercion may also be

needed. Whatever is required to ameliorate

conditions in this respect should be

done.

Our Military Incubator.

Much of the annual report of Colonel

Mills, Superintendent of the West Point

Military Academy, of which we have

printed a synopsis heretofore, is de-

voted to the subject of hazing. It is

not strange. A year ago the whole

country was excited over reports of the

cruel and often inhuman practices of

the upper class men upon new cadets.

Public opinion was so strong on the

matter that first an army board and

afterward a Congressional committee

sat and took testimony. The record of

these inquiries shows that not every-

thing which had been charged directly

or alleged indirectly was proven.

Enough was shown, however, to satisfy

the country that, under the hazing

system, the Military Academy practi-

cally was dominated by a gang of

young men whom it would have been

gross flattery to designate as hoodlums.

Nothing much happened punitively as

a result of these investigations.

Through their club presidents the boys

frankly, and with the true spirit of old

West Point in its haziest days, came

forward, grounded arms, said that if

there was anything they were sorry for

they were glad of it, surrendered at dis-

cretion, and promised that if forgiven

this time they would daily and nightly

watch the sky for the least sign of

haze, and if found, promptly report

it.

Old and young army men who look

upon the Academy as their alma mater,

and love it all the more for what has

happened to them within its reservation,

with one accord shouted that the

cadets should be taken at their word

and their amiable little weaknesses in

the past consigned to oblivion. The

general public did not accept that view,

but Congress did, and for the nonce

there was an end of the matter. But

the military authorities were stirred up

and really went to work to stop the

abuse.

Colonel Mills, in his report, states

that the men already had been given

serious attention at headquarters, and

that if the amendments to the regula-

tions which would have taken effect at

the beginning of last year had been

allowed to go into operation in advance

of any popular outcry, all would have

been well, and without publicity. Un-

fortunately for such a scheme of abso-

lute silence, the habit of upper class

people of pouring tobacco sauce—locally

known as "hell" sauce—into the eyes

and throats of "plebes," demanded the

application of drastic measures to re-

form it. The general verdict seems to

be that publicity was a good thing in-

trinsically, and has tended to produce

the changes in the esoteric life and con-

ditions at the Point which Colonel

Mills refers to with pardonable pride.

We do not find that thorough reform

was effected instantaneously. When the

new boys reported in March of last

year to take their examinations Colonel

Mills says it was evident "that some

members of the fourth class felt that

attention other than that exercised by

authority should be given to these

prospective newcomers." Consequently

there was hazing, and one member of

the fourth and two members of the sec-

ond classes were expelled. These disci-

plinary acts, it appears, furnished the

cause for the student outbreak against

the Superintendent which occurred in

April, 1900. The instigators of the re-

volt were dismissed, since which time

all has been quiet and nice in the in-

stitution. Colonel Mills considers that

era of hazing, brutal fighting, and Ta-

busco has permanently closed.

No War Upon Capital.

In a late speech Colonel Kilbourne,

Democratic candidate for the gov-

ernorship of Ohio, laid especial empha-

sis upon the fact that the party for

which he stands is not the enemy of

capital legitimately employed. This

was both timely and proper. No polit-

ical organization can afford to assume

an attitude of hostility to wealth, and

none should desire to do so. There are

a few really good and deserving men

who are capitalists, and every laborer who

is not in "some" way mentally or mor-

ally degenerate is working for the ac-

quisition of those things which the

world calls "wealth." The extent of

men's ambition with respect to this

matter varies with their dispositions,

their environments, and the opportuni-

ties which seem to present themselves.

What is riches to one man may appear

almost like poverty to another. But each

in his way and according to circum-

stances is seeking for more and more.

It is impossible to draw an arbitrary

line and say that no man shall accumu-

late more than so much. The moment

such a thing is done the material pro-

gress of mankind will be at an end,

while the intellectual development of

the human race will be most serious-

ly checked. Education and scientific

discovery in the abstract count for very

little. There must be a practical appli-

cation of them along industrial and

commercial lines in order to make them

of real value.

With the advance of scientific discov-

ery and mechanical invention, the

forces of nature are brought to the aid

of man in industrial undertakings.

This means operations upon a large

scale, which in turn require large cap-

ital. How large it should be allowed to

be, and under what conditions, is a mat-

ter over which governments should at-

tempt no control. The efforts of the gov-

ernment should be directed to the pre-

vention of abuses by organized capital,

and should be confined to that end.

Here is the distinction that should be

kept ever in view. Frequently in gen-

eral discussion it is obscured. From

the point of view of the individual, it

would be inferred that some of the

wealth is acquired by the use of force

upon it as a sin to acquire wealth by

the fairest and most honorable way.

Others seem to think that capital

should be given everything that it de-

mands, and that an unwillingness to

make the rich richer by special privi-

leges and advantages is in the nature

of communism. Capital is quite able to

take care of itself without any govern-

mental interference. For as paternalism

is to be permitted to influence legis-

lation, it should be framed with

reference to the interests of the middle

and poorer classes rather than of those

who already are enormously rich. But

the true rule is so to shape the laws

that they will do equal and exact jus-

tice to all classes alike.

Some of the advocates of reform are

extremists in their views, but this is

largely owing to the fact that the sig-

nature of the demands made by the

classes. During recent years it is un-

deniable that wealth has had a tremen-

dous hold upon legislation, both State

and national. The never ending de-

mand of capital has been for special

privileges and largesses. The argument

has been that if those advantages were

conferred, the benefits would promptly

be distributed among the people gener-

ally. The actual result has been that

while there has been something of a

distribution of benefits, it has been a

very unequal one, and those who were

the direct beneficiaries have always re-

tained for themselves the lion's share.

The political issues of the day do not

involve any trespass upon the rights of

capital. There is no proposition being

made to deprive any person of what

rightfully belongs to him, or to force a

communistic distribution of wealth.

The war against the trusts does not rest

upon the idea that they must be over-